(b) if so, the steps taken to supply LPG to rural areas of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Presently there is no backlog for LPG refills by the Public Sector Oil Companies to their consumers in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

Production and Import of Petroleum and Natural Gas

2118. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of petroleum and natural gas produced in the country;

(b) the quantity of petroleum products imported from abroad and the annual cash outflow involved;

(c) whether the country is self-sufficient in natural gas;

(d) if not, the measures adopted to become self-sufficient; and

(e) what is the tentative total reserve of natural gas available in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The production of crude oil and natural gas in the country during 1995-96 was 35.15 MMT and 22308 million cubic metres respectively.

(b) The quantity and value of imported products depends on the overall consumption, indigenous production and prices of crude oil and petroleum products prevailing in the international market.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The feasibility of importing natural gas from Oman and Iran and LNG is being explored.

(e) Total reserves of natural gas in the country are 752.58 BCM as on 1.4.1996.

Petroleum Refinery in Kerala

2119. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for setting up a petroleum refinery by KSIDC in Kerala is pending in the Ministry; and

(b) if so, what is its present position and by when clearance would be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The proposal for setting up a 9 MMTPA Refinery by M/s. KSIDC at Kasergode in Kerala has not been considered feasible in view of the demand-supply balance in the Region.

Privatisation of Water Supply & Sewarage Disposal Systems

2120. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to privatise the water supply and sewerage disposal systems in big cities; and

(b) if so, by when and the details of steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Bidding Rounds for Oil Exploration

2121. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of exploration rounds for bidding offered to private enterpreneurs for oil exploration in the country during the last three years;

(b) the details of bids received for each round and block and those accepted by Government; and

(c) the details of exploration being carried out, out of the bids so accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Information is given in Annexure I.

(c) Contract for one block CB-OS/1 under sixth exploration round was signed on 19-11-1996. Exploration work is yet to begin. In respect of other blocks exploration work will begin after the Production Sharing Contracts are signed.

Statement

Details of exploration rounds offered, bids received for each round, and block and contracts awarded during last three years are given below:—

Sixth Round

Under this round Government of India offered 46 exploration blocks in August, 1993. 20 bids for 12 blocks were received by last date of 31-12-1993, as under:—

Block	Number of bids received
1. CB-ON/2	2
2. CB-ON/7	2
3. CB-OS/1	4
4. CB-OS/2	3
5. RJ-ON/6	2
6. ASM-ON-92/1	1
7. ARP-ON-92/2	1
8. BB-OS-90/2	1
9. BB-OS/7	1
10. GS-ON/1	1
11. GK-OS/6	1
12. WB-ON-90/1	1
	20

Government of India has approved award of contracts for the following blocks:—

1. CB-OS/1
2. CB-ON/7
3. CB-ON/2
4. RJ-ON/6
5. CB-OS/2

Seventh Round

Under this round 45 exploration blocks were offered in January, 1994. 12 bids were received for 10 blocks by the last date of 30-6-1994 are as under:—

Blocks	Number of bids received
AA-ON/3	1
BB-OS/6	1
CB-ON/1	1
CB-ON/3	2
CB-ON/4	1
CB-ON/5	1
CB-ON/6	1
CY-ON-OS/1	1
GK-ON/4	2
SR-OS-94/1	1
	12

Government of India has approved award of contracts for the following blocks:—

1. CB-ON/1
2. CB-ON/3
3. CB-ON/4
4. CB-ON/5
5. AA-ON/3
6. GK-ON-/4
7. SR-OS-94/1

Eighth Round

Under this round 34 exploration blocks were offered in July, 1994. 33 bids were received for 18 blocks by last date of 30-12-1994 as under:—

Blocks	Number of bids received
1. AA-ON/1	2
2. AA-ON/2	1
3. AA-ON/4	3

4. AA-ON/5	2
5. AA-ON/6	2
6. AA-ON/7	2
7. AAP-ON-94/1	2
8. AAP-ON-94/2	2
9. ARP-ON-92/3	1
10. CR-ON-90/1	3
11. BB-OS-90/3	1
12. BB-OS/8	3
13. CY-OS/4	1
14. KG-OS/5	1
15. KG-ON/1	3
16. RJ-ON-90/2	2
17. RJ-ON-94/1	1
18. RJ-ON-94/2	2
	33

Government of India has approved award of contracts for the following blocks:—

1. AA-ON/4
2. AA-ON/6
3. AAP-ON-94/1
4. AA-ON/7
5. CR-ON-90/1
6. BB-OS/8
7. KG-ON/1

Joint Venture Exploration Round

Under this round 28 exploration blocks were offered in March, 1995. 22 bids were received for 7 blocks by last date of 15.9.1995 as under:—

Blocks	Number of bids received
1. AA-ONJ-1	1
2. AA-ONJ-2	1
3. ASM-ONJ-94/1	6
4. GK-OSJ-1	1
5. GK-OSJ-3	2
6. JM-ONJ-1	2
7. RJ-ONJ-94/9	9
	22

Government of India has approved award of contracts for the following blocks:—

1. RJ-ONJ-94/1
2. JM-ONJ-1
3. AA-ONJ2
4. GK-OSJ-1
5. GK-OSJ-3

Settlement of Pension cases of Retired Employees of Uttar Pradesh

2122. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are taking any action to get the pension of retired employees of Uttar Pradesh, whch is under President's rule, settled without delay;

(b) whether Government have not directed the concerned Department of Uttar Pradesh Government to redress the grievances of pensioners; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Agreement for Japanese-Loan for MRTS

2123. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed with Japan for a soft loan for the capital's Mass Rapid Transit system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total estimated cost thereof; and

(d) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U.